

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ALMA SEHOVIC on behalf of herself
and all other similarly situated

Plaintiff,

-against-

ALLIED INTERSTATE, INC.

Defendant.

FILED
IN CLERK'S OFFICE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT E.D.N.Y.

★ MAY 10 2012 ★

LONG ISLAND OFFICE

SUMMONS ISSUED

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

CV - 12 2315

Introduction

1. Plaintiff seeks redress for the illegal practices of Allied Interstate, Inc. concerning the collection of debts, in violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA").

MAUSKOPF, J.

Parties

2. Plaintiff is a citizen of the State of New York and resides in this District.
3. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by Section 1692(a)(3) of the FDCPA, in that the alleged debt that defendant sought to collect from plaintiff is a consumer debt purportedly owed to GE Capital Retail Bank.
4. Upon information and belief, Allied Interstate, Inc. is an Ohio corporation which maintains an office for collection of debts in Columbus, Ohio.
5. Defendant is regularly engaged, for profit, in the collection of debts allegedly owed by consumers.
6. Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6).

BLISS, M.J.

Jurisdiction and Venue

7. This Court has federal question jurisdiction under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
8. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), as the acts and transactions that give rise to this action occurred, in substantial part, in this district. Venue is also proper in this district since the defendant transacts business in this district and the collection letter was sent into this district.

Allegations Particular to Alma Sehovic

9. On information and belief, on a date better known by defendant, defendant began attempting to collect an alleged consumer debt from the plaintiff.
10. On or about January 28, 2012 defendant sent the plaintiff a collection letter seeking to collect a balance allegedly incurred for personal purposes.
11. Said letter states in pertinent part as follows: “We urge you to make this payment promptly. If you fail to do so, we will have no choice but to continue taking further actions to ensure our client is paid.”
12. Said language leads the “least sophisticated consumer” to believe that legal action will be taken to ensure payment of the debt.
13. Upon information and belief the original creditor had no intention of taking legal action.
14. Upon information and belief, at the time of the sending of the January 28, 2012 letter, the defendant had no authorization from the underlying creditor to continue taking further actions to ensure that the underlying creditor is paid.
15. The language at issue contradicts the plaintiff’s rights in a threatening fashion i.e. to dispute the debt and seek verification thereof.
16. Said letter does not set forth an address where plaintiff can dispute the debt in

order to seek verification of debt thereof.

17. Defendant's letter is in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692g, 1692e(5) and 1692e(10) for failing to accurately set forth the dispute and verification rights and for engaging in deceptive and falsely threatening practices.

AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act brought by plaintiff on behalf of herself and the members of a class, as against the defendant.

18. Plaintiff restates, realleges, and incorporates herein by reference, paragraphs 1-17 as if set forth fully in this Cause of Action.
19. This cause of action is brought on behalf of plaintiff and the members of a class.
20. The Class consists of consumers who received the same form letter, as did the plaintiff.
21. The Class consists of all persons whom Defendant's records reflect resided in the State of New York and who were sent a collection letter (a) bearing the defendant's letterhead in substantially the same form as the letter sent to the plaintiff on or about September 20, 2011 sent within one year prior to the date of the within complaint concerning GE Capital Retail Bank (b) the collection letter was sent to a consumer seeking payment of a consumer debt; and (c) the collection letter was not returned by the postal service as undelivered (d) and that plaintiff asserts that the letter contained violations of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692g, 1692e(5) and 1692e(10).
22. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, a class action is appropriate and preferable in this case because:

- (A) Based on the fact that the collection letters that are at the heart of this litigation are mass-mailed form letters, the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable.
- (B) There are questions of law and fact common to the class and these questions predominate over any questions affecting only individual class members. The principal question presented by this claim is whether the Defendant violated the FDCPA.
- (C) The only individual issue is the identification of the consumers who received the letters, (*i.e.* the class members), a matter capable of ministerial determination from the records of Defendant.
- (D) The claims of the plaintiff are typical of those of the class members. All are based on the same facts and legal theories.
- (E) The plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the class members' interests. The plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in bringing class actions and collection-abuse claims. The plaintiff's interests are consistent with those of the members of the class.

23. A class action is superior for the fair and efficient adjudication of the class members' claims. Congress specifically envisions class actions as a principal means of enforcing the FDCPA. 15 U.S.C. 1692(k). The members of the class are generally unsophisticated individuals, whose rights will not be vindicated in the absence of a class action. Prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the classes would create the risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications resulting in the

establishment of inconsistent or varying standards for the parties and would not be in the interest of judicial economy.

24. If the facts are discovered to be appropriate, the plaintiff will seek to certify a class pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

25. Collection letters, such as those sent by the defendant are to be evaluated by the objective standard of the hypothetical “least sophisticated consumer.”

Violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act


26. The defendant’s use of the language violates the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

27. Because the defendant violated of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the plaintiff and the members of the class are entitled to damages in accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

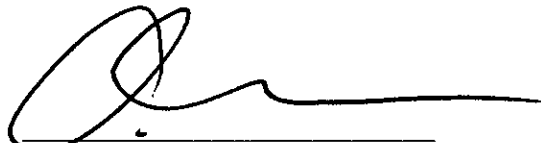
WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in her favor and on behalf of the members of the class, and against the defendant and award damages as follows:

- (a) Statutory damages provided under the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. 1692(k);
- (b) Attorney fees, litigation expenses and costs incurred in bringing this action; and
- (c) Any other relief that this Court deems appropriate and just under the circumstances.

Dated: Cedarhurst, New York
May 9, 2012


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Plaintiff requests trial by jury on all issues so triable.


Adam J. Fishbein (AF-9508)



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January 28, 2012

Alma Sehovic
14074 34Th Ave Apt 4B
Flushing, NY 11354-3070

Re: Gap Credit Card Account
Amount Owed: \$832.00
GE Capital Retail Bank Account No. *****5343

Alma Sehovic:

We are a debt collection company and our client, GE Capital Retail Bank, formerly known as GE Money Bank, has retained us to collect the debt noted above.

To make a payment, please telephone us at 877-475-2883 or mail your payment using the coupon on the reverse side of this letter. You may also pay your balance online. Please visit www.gap.com, a safe and secure website. We process checks electronically, and your checking account will be debited on the day we receive your payment. Your check will not be returned.

The purpose of this letter is to collect this debt, and we will use any information we obtain for that purpose. If you do not dispute all or any portion of the debt within 30 days after receiving this letter, we will assume the debt is valid. If you notify us in writing within 30 days after receiving this letter that you dispute the validity of any portion of this debt, we will obtain verification of the debt, or a copy of a judgment against you, and mail it to you. If you provide a written request within 30 days after receiving this letter, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

We urge you to make this payment promptly. If you fail to do so, we will have no choice but to continue taking further actions to ensure our client is paid.

Sincerely,

Allied Interstate LLC

Nicole Cummins

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION